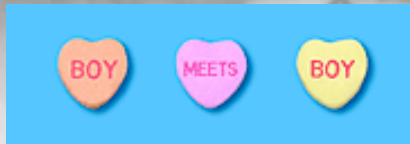


*MLJ Meets Book  
Study Guide*



*To:*



DAVID LEVITHAN

**By: Lydia Ahn, Jenny Lee, Mingoo Park**

## **Key Facts**

Title: *Boy Meets Boy*

Author: David Levithan

Genre: Realistic fiction

Date of Publication: May 2005

Publisher: Random House Incorporations

Narrator: Paul [protagonist]

Point of View: First Person

Tone: Whimsical, Liberal, Young

Setting (time): Present, Twenty first century

Setting (place): Small town-main school campus, Paul's house, Tony's house, the library,

Protagonist: Paul

Major Conflict: Noah is uncertain about him and Paul's relationship. When Noah and Paul meet up to talk about their issues, Noah finds out about Paul's kiss with his ex-boyfriend, Kyle. They don't talk for weeks, and Noah continues to ignore Paul.

Rising Action: Paul, Tony, and Joni--three best friends are sitting at a book store. Suddenly, Paul notices Noah and discover that they go to the same school. Paul is instantly in love with Noah, and they start to date when they meet at school. Joni starts to date Chuck after breaking up with Ted (her long-term boyfriend).

Climax: Tony is having difficulty with his parents because of his strictly religious parents, so him and Paul decide to go to the woods to talk hug. Paul gives a friendly hug, but right then, Tony's mother's best friend spreads the word. The school is misinformed and rumors about them form,

causing Noah to get mad. Noah and Paul talk about it, but Paul slips and tells Noah that he kissed Kyle. Kyle and Paul don't talk for week.

Falling Action: Paul talks to Tony, his best friend, about what to do. Tony tells him to show Noah that he loves him rather than try and talk to him. Noah realizes how much he loves Paul, and they get back together.

Foreshadowing: The uncertainty of Noah's feelings foreshadow that their relationship may not work out. Also, Noah wasn't even sure about being so open about his gay stance--foreshadowing a major conflict.

## **Character List**

Paul – As a typical sophomore in a high school in a little town, he realized that he is gay when he was five years old. Even though he is average height and is not really fashionable, he has had many boyfriends because of his cute appearance. Paul grew up in a liberal town under parents who were always accepting his homosexuality, thus living a lucky life

Noah – Noah is a new student to Paul's high school. He has pointy hair, green eyes, and a littler birthmark on his neck. He is an arty person, who has his own painting room in his house that his family members are prohibited from entering.

Joni – Joni was Paul's best friend since first grade. Joni was the first person Paul ever came out to except his parents, and since then they have been best friends. Described as a cheerful, pretty girl who knows almost everyone in their school, Joni would have done anything to help her best friend.

Kyle – He is Paul's ex-boyfriend, who ended the relationship with Kyle on his own. He is the one that hurt Paul before, that made him to be careful to love someone ever again. Kyle later

shows his love toward Paul again, telling him how much he regretted after he broke up with Paul.

Infinite Darlene – She is the high school football quarter back and the homecoming queen.

Infinite Darlene is a drag queen, who is really close with Paul. She is buff and tall in skirts, but no one seems to care in this town. She is always there for Paul, and her poppy comments often contain valuable advices.

Tony - Paul's best friend who is also homosexual. Tony has the sweetest smile ever, and he is the one who is thoughtful, and who knows how to listen to the others. H. Grown up under strict parents, Tony never got to hang out with boys because his parents don't want to accept that Tony is homosexual.

Chuck – Joni's boyfriend. He is described as a buff, tall, an athletic-looking boy. He plays second string quarterback, and is not welcomed by many people. He is famous for talking about someone behind the back, which is the main reason for many people's hatred.

## **Major Character Analysis:**

Paul – Paul is too ordinary to be special, and too special to be ordinary. He is neither a superman nor a magician. He is a typical boy who lives in a small town, who cries, who smiles, who hangs out with his friends, and who loves. Sometimes he makes stupid decisions that ruin his relationships and regrets. This doesn't necessarily mean Paul is neither stupid nor unintelligent, but simply shows the author's intention to create a typical teenage boy. Yet Paul is special. He is special in a way that he is accepted in his society as a homosexual. Paul believes in his instincts most of the times, which sometimes don't work out. Paul is scared to pursue his love because he is afraid to get hurt. But this time, after meeting Noah, he starts to believe that "happily ever

after” is actually possible.

Noah –Noah caught Paul’s attention from the beginning. Maybe it is because of his appearance, but mostly because of his atmosphere. As an artist, he has a sweet look on his face along with deep eyes. Noah is a person with deep thoughts, who wants to be careful before taking any actions. Noah wants to be careful when starting a relationship because he has been hurt before and doesn’t want to go through that again. Even though he has feelings for Paul, Noah doesn’t want to show it so easily because he is also afraid to get hurt.

Joni – She is the one who would always stand up for her best friend. But for some reason she changed. After she goes out with Chuck, she prioritizes her relationship with Chuck more than the friendship. Joni’s friendship with Paul was well-known to all people as the one that would last forever. But because Joni believes that Paul disapproves her relationship with Chuck, she gets defensive and she is willing to give up her friendship for Chuck. This shows her devotion to love, but also her perception of love overcoming friendship.

Tony – Tony is probably the most insightful person in this novel. Tony knows how to listen to his people. Joni and Paul always talk to Tony whenever they have any problems. Tony is always there for them not to give them the right answer, but to guide them to it. But Tony has his own problems as well, which this time, his friends step up to help him. His strict parents don’t want to accept that Tony is homosexual, and Tony doesn’t know how to persuade his parents. Tony feels weak in front of his parents, not knowing how to express what he wants. But Tony finally learns out to raise his voice to get what he wants.

## **Important Quotations**

I think he’s wonderful. He’s holding a book out to me. *Migraines Are Only in Your Mind*. I am

aware of my breathing. I am aware of my heartbeat. I am aware that my shirt is half untucked. I take the book from him and say thanks.

**Explanation of the first quote:** This is Paul's description of Noah and how he felt when he first saw him. This is the start of everything. This is the start of happiness, smiles, laughter, tears, frustration and all. Because Paul feels a connection with Noah from their first encounter, they look for each other at school. They can't keep their eyes off of each other. This is the start of everything.

In contrast, every plan Joni and Chuck mention starts with the word we. Usually Joni and I would plan a point to connect over the weekend. This time, neither of us makes that move. I notice this. I wonder if she does, too.

**Explanation of the second quote:** Joni and Paul were best friends that met up every weekend. But after Joni started going out with Chuck, their tradition broke. Paul feels betrayed, as if Joni chose Chuck over Paul. Joni doesn't want to lose neither Chuck nor Paul, but if she has to choose, she is willing to choose Chuck over Paul. This quote shows the main theme of love overcoming the friendship. There are different people in this world, and some people are definitely willing to choose one over another.

"I didn't kiss Tony. Is *that* what you heard? Oh, God! I was in the park with him yesterday and gave him a hug because he was bummed out. That's all" I figure this will clear things up. But Noah looks more confused than ever. "So who did you kiss this morning, then?" He asks. Gulp. Stupid. Stupid. Stupid. "Kyle?" I say. "Your ex-boyfriend Kyle?" I nod. Now it's Noah who's laughing.

**Explanation of third quote:** Paul shouldn't have kissed Kyle. But it is what happened and Paul

is confessing the truth. Noah didn't want to start the relationship with Paul because he was afraid that something like this would happen to them. That he would get hurt. This is the turning point where boy loses boy. It seems like Paul cheated on Noah, whether it is true or not. Paul tries hard from this moment to win Noah back, where he proves his dedication and love toward Noah through his effort and time consumption. This also is correlated with the theme of effort changing the result.

He has kept all this white noise inside him, and now some of it is coming out. I move over to him and hug him tight. I tell him that he's brave. I tell him that he's done it – he's taken not the first up but the next step.

**Explanation of the fourth quote:** Tony has been suppressed by his parents to shows his homosexuality. But finally with Paul's support, he decides to stand tall against his parents to tell them that he is gay and it is nothing to be embarrassed of. Tony feels proud that he had the courage to present his homosexuality to his parents, and Paul also applauds his bravery. Tony is finally taking the first step to be happy.

And I think to myself, *what a wonderful world*.

**Explanation of the fifth quote:** This is the last sentence of this entire novel. It shows how the theme of many fairy tales also applies here. "And they lived happily ever after." Even though Paul and Noah went through some hardships and difficulties regarding their relationship, they are both happy now and a bright, joyful future awaits them. Paul and Noah lived happily ever after.

## **Themes**

### **Efforts do change results**

"Don't tell him, Paul. Show him." "And how do I do that?" Tony shakes his head. "I'm

not going to tell you. But I have a feeling that if you think hard about it, you'll figure out how to do it. If you want to be loved, be lovable."

When Paul tells Tony about Noah, Tony suggests to Paul to show his love towards Noah then Noah will love him back. Actions sometimes can show more efforts and sincere rather than just words. Noah would open up his mind towards Paul by showing his love through actions.

"Because I know that as well as giving him the flowers, I am giving him the time it takes to make them. With every fold, I am giving him seconds of my life. With every flower, part of a minute."

Devoting one's time and money really shows how much he or she wants it. Paul is putting his time to fold flowers with papers to give them to Noah. By doing this, Paul shows how much he is attempting to get Noah back. Noah starts to reveal his heart little by little and starts speaking to Paul again. As a result, this shows the theme of efforts changing results.

### **Relationship is never easy.**

"I miss Joni. I miss Noah. I don't really miss Kyle, but he's the one who finds me."

This part well describes how Paul misses his best friend and his love that he has lost in the last few days. The reason for this chaos was because of many struggles that he went through. However, this all shows how friendship and love can be hard sometimes.

"If I were bigger, I swear I'd beat the crap out of you."

This quote tells how Noah's sister Claudia is mad about Paul because he hurt Noah. After all those warnings that she told Paul not to hurt Noah, it is reasonable that she is mad at Paul. Paul now has one more person to persuade in order for him to get back with relationship with Noah again. This clearly is not going to be easy due to reaction from Claudia.



## **Symbols:**

### **The seventh day**

“On the seventh day, I give him me.”

On the first day, Paul gives Noah flowers and time. Paul makes flowers out of a thousand sheets of bright square color. On the second day, Paul gives him words and definitions. Instead of talking to Noah directly, Paul writes a list of the words he loves. On the third day, Paul gives Noah space. On the fourth day, Paul gives Noah a song. On the fifth day, Paul gives Noah film. Paul uses money he have saved to buy twenty rolls of film. On the sixth day, Paul write Noah letters. Finally, on the seventh day, Paul gives Noah himself. On that day, Noah has finally figured out how Paul really feels towards him and decided to give him another chance.

### **Green envelope**

“The envelope is green. When he holds it up, it brings out the green of his eyes.

In some cultures, green symbolizes hope and growth. By making the envelope’s color green rather than any other colors, this foreshadows the relationship between Paul and Noah.

Green is also associated with regeneration, fertility and rebirth for its connections to nature. After all the letters than Paul has sent to Noah hoping that Noah will notice his true feelings towards him at some point, their relationship finally starts to rebuild.

## **Chapter Summaries:**

### **Chapter 1: Now Away We Go**

It is November at 9 P.M. on a Saturday. Joni, Tony, and Paul (the main protagonist) are out of town. They are best friends. Paul describes the atmosphere of his town--he’s lived there his whole life and is very liberal. People accept Paul for who he is. The three best friends go to

the library. Paul knocks a book off the shelf and suddenly a voice asks “This yours?” They introduce each other, and Paul finds out the boy’s name is Noah. Paul is immediately mesmerized by Noah and falls for him. They find out that they go to the same school; Noah is a new student. Paul tries to flirt with him and they leave. Paul then talks about Ted and Joni, a couple who has broken up twelve times in the past few years. Ted is handsome and good looking, but he believes he’s the king of the school. Joni breaks up with Ted again, because of his negative attitude and personality.

## Chapter 2: Paul Is Gay

The chapter starts off with a flashback of Paul’s openness about being gay. He didn’t know he was gay until Kindergarten. Paul notices a report card that says “Paul is definitely gay and has very good sense of self.” He confirms it with the teacher and tells his dad that he’s gay. Joni was the first person he ever came out to in second grade. While they were playing a game and Joni tried to kiss him, he told her that he was gay. This was the moment they became best friends. In third grade, it was Joni that helped Paul become the first openly gay class president. All through his life, Paul was open about his gay stance and people actually tolerated him. He states that all through junior high, his life was pretty fun and wasn’t really any life out of the ordinary. However, everything changed when he met Noah. Things became complicated--but not bad complicated.

## Chapter 3: The Homecoming Queen’s Dilemma, Chapter 4: Pride and Joy

Paul looks for him in the hallways on Monday but can’t seem to find Noah anywhere. Rather, he runs into Infinite Darlene, the school homecoming queen but also the star quarterback. Chuck, the second-string quarterback, fell in love with her a year ago but got depressed when she

said he wasn't her type. Paul is scared of telling her anything, because Infinite Darlene is comfortable with telling anyone anything. They see Kyle, the only straight boy Paul has ever kissed. He is the only ex Paul doesn't talk to, because he spread bad rumors about Paul. Paul then confesses his love for Noah to Infinite Darlene. In the next chapter, Joni, Ted, and Paul sit together for the pep rally. The biker cheerleading team comes out and the school goes crazy. Paul notices Joni keeps looking over at Chuck. Suddenly, Ted asks Paul if that's "him." Paul looks over and notices Noah. They glance at each other, and Paul decides to talk to him. They flirt and decide to meet at Noah's locker the next day after school. Paul is ecstatic.

#### Chapter 5: Hallway Traffic (Complications Ensnare), Chapter 6: Finding Lost Languages

Paul wants to get ready to see Noah by cutting his hair, changing his clothes, and getting muscular. However, he doesn't have the time and spots Paul's locker. However, many people start to interrupt him. Ted talks to him, looking for Joni. Paul and Ted suddenly notice Joni and Chuck making out, and Ted becomes upset. Paul is 17 minutes late. He finally arrives at Noah's locker after talking to Ted and another teacher. A girl tells him that he left around ten minutes ago, looking disappointed. In the next chapter, Paul goes to Tony's house to do homework. Instead of doing their own homework, they do each other's homework. When Paul goes back home, for the first time in a long time, Joni doesn't call Paul and Paul doesn't call Tony. This is how Paul knows that Joni knows that Paul knows about Joni and Chuck.

#### Chapter 7: Dangling Conversations

The next morning, Paul looks for Noah but finds Joni instead. She tells him they need to talk about what happened. Paul tries to convince Joni that Chuck is a bad guy by telling her that he trashed Infinite Darlene's locker and bad mouthed her when she rejected him. However, Joni

becomes resistant and tells Paul that she still likes him. They argue for a while and leave. When Paul goes to his locker, he notices Noah standing next to it. Paul apologizes about the day before and notices that he had the wrong locker number in the first place. Right then, Infinite Darlene interrupts and bluntly asks Noah if he's the guy that Paul likes. Right before Noah and Paul separate, they make plans to meet after school at Noah's house and paint to some music. Paul becomes anxious and excited.

#### Chapter 8: Painting Music

Noah's house is in a different part of town. When they get to Noah's house, his sister, Claudia, is home. She tells Paul not to hurt Noah like Pitt did. They then go to Noah's room. They then go to this one door through the closet, which is unusually deep. They go to a trap door by pulling themselves up in a rope ladder. Noah states that this is where he paints and that no one else is allowed up here. They decide to paint with the music on. Paul freaks out and tells Noah that he doesn't know what to paint. Noah responds by simply to not worry and just listen to the music and paint. When the music comes on, Paul simply paints anything he wants. They talk about being gay and that they've always known that they were gay. However, for Noah, it hasn't always been easy. Noah puts his hand over Paul's and they paint together. They finish and simply smile at each other, and finally, Paul goes home.

#### Chapter 9: Chuck Waggin'

The chapter starts off with Joni asking Paul if he kissed him. Paul tells Joni that it's none of her business. Paul wanted to kiss Noah and vice versa, but they left in silence instead. They talk about Kyle, because Joni at one point liked him as well. However, Paul and Joni both got rejected, although Joni was able to get over him easier. Joni tells Paul that him, Chuck, and her

should hang out to lunch together the next day. Paul accepts because she's his best friend. Paul and Chucks start talking, and Paul evaluates Chuck's personality. He talks bad about Infinite Darlene and seems apathetic about Paul's interests. When Paul seems a bit down, Chuck tries to alleviate the awkward atmosphere by asking him about Paul's article he wrote for the school newspaper. However, Chuck already lost Paul's respect. Noah and Paul meet in the hallway once again, and Paul sees Noah coming over with a note folded in the shape of a crane.

#### Chapter 10: A Walk in the Park

Paul and Noah's plan is to meet at Paul's house on Saturday. Before they go in the house, Paul leans forward and kisses him. Noah kisses him back with a smile. Paul's mom asks them if they want pancakes for dinner. The family and Noah eat dinner together and have a normal conversation. After, Paul and Noah go out to the park and hold hands, not caring about if anyone sees them together. They start to talk about their favorite books and paintings, and notice that they have similar interests. Noah tells him about his past relationship and how he was so hurt. Noah was so devoted to this one guy, his first boyfriend, but he really didn't care. That's why he was relieved when his parents suddenly decided to move. Noah and Paul walk all the way to Noah's house, simply talking about their interests and their past. Noah explains to Paul about how his parents are a bit awkward

#### Chapter 11: Please Rewind Before Returning, Chapter 12: Things Unsaid

Paul goes to get a movie, while Noah goes and buys the pizza. At the movie rental store, Paul spots Kyle and they start to talk. Kyle says that he's been meaning to talk to him, and he apologizes to Paul. Paul has to leave, but they decide to meet Monday after school in front of the chemistry lab. Paul and Noah start to watch the movie, but rather than watching it, they simply

touch each other and flirt. They decide to meet at the morning bell the next morning, although Kyle is still on Paul's mind. The next morning, when Paul and Noah meet, Paul notices that something has changed between them. They talk about their mornings but leave so many things unsaid. Paul and Joni meet and talk about their weekend. Joni states that Ted kept on calling on her when she was with Chuck, and that Ted doesn't understand that she's with someone else now. At the end of the school day, Paul and Kyle meet to talk. Kyle apologizes once again and suddenly breaks down. Kyle tells Paul that his aunt recently passed away. Paul wants to hold him and help him feel better. Paul tells him that he forgives Kyle and has never hated him. Kyle confesses that he still likes girls and guys; he is bisexual. They decide to still be friends, and in order to help him feel better, Paul kisses Kyle.

Chapter 13: Pinball, Chapter 14: Hitting the Mountain,

Paul tells Joni everything, who tells Chuck. In the past week, Paul and Noah have been dating almost everyday. They've been kissing like crazy, even for hours. Paul feels relieved that both Noah and Kyle are going away for the weekend. Tony, Chuck, Paul, and Joni go out to eat. After dinner, they start to play pinball. They notice Ted, and Chuck and Ted about to get into a fight. Joni tells Chuck to stop, while Chuck shoves Ted away from the machine. In the next chapter, Tony and Paul talk about Tony's strict parents. They are religious and intolerant of Tony's gay relationships. Tony and Paul decide to go to a mountain as best friends simply to talk. Tony asks Paul about Noah and Kyle. Paul replies by saying that he misses Noah and with Kyle, things are confusing. Kyle loved Paul, then didn't, but now Kyle needs Paul for comfort. Paul comforts Tony by telling him he's one of the greatest people Paul knows. Paul and Tony hug to comfort each other. However, suddenly, Tony's mom's friend comes out of no where.

## Chapter 15: Everybody Freaks Out

Tony is officially grounded and his mom's best friend tells everyone about what she saw.

It's no use telling people that Tony and Paul are just friends, because no body will believe them.

Suddenly, Kyle says that he has to talk with Paul. Kyle drags Paul into the janitor's closet. Kyle proposes to Paul that he thinks that they should be together. Paul simply opens his arms and strokes his hair. They hold each other and Paul kisses him, telling Kyle that he's here for him.

They come out of the closet and go their separate ways. Paul sees Noah and gives him a note, but Noah doesn't give a note back. Suddenly, Paul meets Infinite Darlene, and she tells him that the only reason why Chuck is going out with Joni is to get back at Darlene. Noah goes up to Joni, who is with Chuck, to talk right then. However, Joni rejects him and says that she's busy. Paul and Noah meet and Paul tells Noah that he's freaking out. Paul confesses and says that maybe they should slow down and take a time out. They decide to meet on Tuesday. Paul is freaking out and doesn't know what to do so he runs home. He finds a note from Noah that says "I can't believe you kissed him."

## Chapter 16: Elsewhere, Chapter 17: Boy Loses Boy

Since Paul was a little boy, he's been doing this thing called Going Elsewhere. He sits in the middle of the room and tries to color himself him. He turns on the tunes and fills himself with images, kind of similar to mediation. After Paul "Goes Elsewhere," he decides to talk to Tony. However, when he calls Tony's house, his mother answers and hangs up. At 11 P.M., Paul can't take it anymore. He goes to Noah's house, even if his parents don't let him. Paul begins throwing pebbles at Noah's window. Noah tells him to go away, but eventually he comes out to talk. Paul apologizes, stating that he didn't mean to kiss him. Noah is shocked and asks him when and

where. He starts asking questions, and asks if this is the first time he's kissed Tony. Paul laughs and says that he never kissed Tony. Paul then notices his mistake, but it was too late--he confessed to Noah that he kissed Kyle. Noah becomes more angered, especially because Kyle was his ex-boyfriend. Noah shouts at Paul, telling him that it's never just a kiss. They say good night, and Paul goes home, frustrated.

#### Chapter 18: Dealing with the Club Kids

Paul doesn't want to get out of bed the next morning, but his mom makes him. Paul's lost Noah and doesn't want to be with Kyle. He meets Infinite Darlene at school, who tries to cheer him up. He goes to the Club Kids meeting, a council that helps organize the dances. Everyone starts to contribute ideas, and Kyle suddenly comes up with the idea of making the school dance theme 'death.' Many go against it, but in the end, the council thinks it's a good idea. Paul begins to have a vision for the dance and starts shooting out ideas. Kyle and Paul talk about the difficulties Kyle went through. Besides Noah, nobody knows about what happened between Kyle and Paul, so it's not awkward in the halls at all. Kyle and Paul thank each other for no reason and go to class.

#### Chapter 19: More Than, Equal To, Less Than, 20: To Bring You My Love

Paul only sees Noah at the end of school but doesn't talk to him. With Joni, it's even worse. It was the first serious fight they've had. Paul and Joni talk, and Paul asks if they're breaking up? Joni replies sarcastically that they were never together and shuts the door. Paul misses Joni and Noah. Kyle tells Paul to go to the cemetery with the other kids to get ideas for the dance. While Paul goes home, he observes the things around him. He notices things that remind him of Noah and becomes sad. Paul simply walks by himself, thinking about words to



say to Noah. He sprints and screams at himself for everything that has happened. He stumbles and feels a pain in his legs. He slows down and finally arrives home.

Chapter 21: A Very Late Night Conversation With Ted, Chapter 22: Meet Me at the Cemetery Gates

Ted calls Paul to talk about Joni. Although they don't get along, they both want to help Joni become normal again. Ted thinks that she's crossed the line and has changed. He's never felt this gloomy, and he thinks that she's losing herself in Chuck. The Club Kids all meet at the cemetery to get ideas for the dance. Paul sees Noah there taking pictures. Noah asks Paul if he asked Infinite Darlene to tell Noah to come. He says no, and suddenly Kyle shouts out Paul's name. He apologizes for interrupting, but Kyle shows him dowager's crypt anyway. It was like a mansion with a fire in the grate. They finally talk about the kiss, and Paul says that he doesn't regret it. Kyle confesses that he's jealous of Paul for knowing who he is and being so strong. Paul says that it's not always eating knowing who you are and what you are, but there shouldn't be any excuse for not trying to get it. The whole time, however, Paul was thinking about Noah and the few words they exchanged together.

Chapter 23: Tony

Paul goes to Tony's house to talk about what happened with Kyle and Noah. Paul tells him everything--that he's confused and hurt. He expects him to comfort Paul, but Tony tells Paul that Kyle is right. He says that he understands where Kyle is coming from, and that Paul is lucky to have everyone accept him for who he is. Kyle feels lost and doesn't know what to do. Tony tells Paul about his hardships. He loves being with his friends, but whenever he goes home, his parents are so strict about being gay. Suddenly, Tony's mom walks in on them simply talking.

Paul goes home but Tony and his mom fight. Tony later calls Paul and explains that Paul can still come over as long as it's in the kitchen. Tony also gives advice to Paul to show Noah that he loves him rather than tell him.

#### Chapter 24: Possibly Maybe

Noah decides to listen to Tony's advice. It's a fine line between love and stalking. On the first day, he gives Noah flowers and time. The night before, Paul made over a thousand sheets of flowers. On the second day, he gave him words and definitions. Paul picked his favorite words out of the dictionary and added definitions such as 'resplendent' and 'giddy'. On the third day, Paul gives him space and leaves him alone. He didn't want to overdo anything. On the fourth day, Paul gives him a song. Noah looks out of his bedroom window and hears the song. On the fifth day, Paul gives him film. Paul makes a film about Noah and his relationship and some aspects of his life. On the sixth day, Paul writes him letters. He writes five letters, but keeps the fifth one to give it to him the next day. Paul and Kyle meet in the hallway, but they decide to be cool with each other and be good friends. They decide not to be awkward and talk more about the dance.

#### Chapter 25: Instinct and Proof, Chapter 26: Flicker

On the seventh day, Paul gives Noah 'me'. He does this by saying hi over and over again and try to dissolve their distance between them. In the morning, Paul hands him the fifth letter and Noah is almost speechless. He says he wanted to write Paul back but instead gave him four photographs of the town. On the back of the photos, it says 'wish you were here.' Noah then asks Paul to the dance on Saturday, and Paul apologizes for everything that happened. They kiss and make up. Paul decides he needs to talk to Joni and goes over to her house. He says that Tony

needs everyone to pick him up in order for Tony to go to the dance. Joni bluntly rejects him.

They argue and Paul leaves stating that she knows the right thing to do. For the next 48 hours, the Council works on making the dance happen.

Chapter 27: One Small Step, Chapter 28: What I will Always Remember

Finally, Saturday arrives and Paul shows up with a tuxedo and a nice pair of shoes. Paul goes and picks up Noah. Soon enough, everyone is in the car, about to pick up Tony. However, Joni is nowhere to be seen. They're about to leave when suddenly Joni pops out and apologizes for being late. Chuck is by her side, looking displeased and a bit annoyed. They pick up Tony, who's parents allow him to go to the dance, seeing that everyone gathered to pick him up. They arrive at the dance at 9 P.M., and the dirt is the dance floor. The stars are the elaborate decorations, and candles and flashlights are everywhere. Tony and Kyle are dancing next to Paul and Noah--everyone is laughing and smiling. Paul dances slow and fast dance with Noah. Everyone is happy and Paul thinks to himself 'what a wonderful world.'

## **Chapter Study Questions**

1. What did you think about Paul's kindergarden teacher writing that Paul is "definitely gay" on his report card?

Answer: I thought it was odd because I do not think that teachers would usually write something like that on kids' report cards. This showed that the book is really open to certain thoughts.

2. Why do you think that Paul thought boys liking boys is normal?

Answer: Paul thought that boys liking boys is normal because he is gay. Also, he never seriously thought about men and women marrying each other.

3. What do you think will happen with Paul and Noah after them meeting for the first time?

Answer: I think that they will go out eventually. The tone of the novel is humorous and positive which tells that the ending of the story might be a happy ending as well.

4. What is happening at the part where Paul first met with Noah?

Answer: Paul felt his heart beating towards Noah. Paul describes that Noah has perfect hands after they shook hands.

5. What do you think Paul and Noah have in common?

Answer: Paul and Noah both had imaginary friends when they were four years old. Also, they both read the book called "Of Mice and Men."

6. What did you think about the fact that Paul and Tony do their homework for each other?

Answer: Even though they are doing it to challenge themselves and learn about each others' subjects, it is still unacceptable. Although they go to different school and are close friends, they should not hand in something that are not their work.

7. What do you think will happen with Joni and Chuck in the future?

Answer: I do not think that they will last due to the fact that they both were in relationships with other people just before they got together. With the help from her friends, Joni will realize that Chuck is not the right guy for her.

8. Why do you think that Tony and Paul did not become lovers when they first met?

Answer: Paul and Tony had many things in common. However, when they felt connection between them, they felt a connection that was more real and truthful. It was easy for them to understand each other and trust each other as best friends.

9. What is happening at the part when Paul goes to Noah's house for the first time and start painting music together?

Answer: Noah and Paul hold hands and can feel that they have some feelings for each other.

Also, Noah tells Paul that he does not let anyone in that area. However, he let Paul in.

10. What does Paul going to Noah's house for the first time and start painting music together show?

Answer: Paul going to Noah's house for the first time and start painting music together show that they are already intimate from the beginning. The fact the they were painting music showed that they are different from other people in that they do not think about painting whey they paint but paint by how they feel.

11. What do you think about the fact that Paul believes he has to decide whether to give approval of Chuck to Joni?

Answer: I do not think Paul has to make a decision. Paul will be lying to his best friend and himself even if he does approve Chuck.

12. What were reactions of Paul's parents when Paul brings Noah over to his house?

Answer: Paul's parents welcome Noah with open hands because they have been used to Paul being gay and having gay boy friends to come over his house. This was interesting because it is far from the stereotype that it is hard for the homosexual people to get approvals from their parents.

13. Why is Kyle starting to talk to Paul again?

Answer: Kyle has the intention of being friends with Paul or actually thinking of starting a relationship against with Paul. It is obvious that Kyle wants to apologize to Paul for what happened when they broke up.

14. What happens with Paul and Joni?

Answer: Joni still feels uncomfortable about Paul has not yet approved Chuck as her boyfriend even though she wants to take to Paul and hear about Noah. Ted and Chuch is also becoming a barrier between Paul and Joni.

15. What is happening at the part where Rip bet on the odds of Paul's relationship?

Answer: Rip is a rich boy who likes to bet on the odds of every issue in the school. Rip mad a bet that the chance of Paul and Kyle getting back together a s a high possibility.

16. Why is Ted trying to fight Chuck?

Answer: Ted wants to start a relationship with Joni again. He is not only jealous of Chuck being with Joni but also he does not like the changes that happend to Joni after she started to go out with Chuck.

17. What were Tony's parents' behaviors when they first found out that he was gay?

Answer: Tony's parents started praying loudly, delivering all of their disappointment and rage and guilt to him in the form of an address to God.

18. How did Tony's parents found out that Tony was gay?

Answer: Tony's mother had decided to swap his winter clothes for his summer clothes and went through his drawers while he was at school. She found a magazine folded into a flannel shirt. An old issue of The Advocate that Tony had bought on one of his city trips. At first she did not understand. She thought The Advocate sounded like something a lawyer would read. The she sat on his bed, opened up to the table of contents and Tony's secret was not a secret anymore.

19. What did Tony did since he could not trust his parents anymore?

Answer: Tony kept his love notes in a box at Joni's house, and borrowed Paul's magazines instead of buying his own. He could only do email at school or a friend's house because his

family's computer screened its sites.

20. Why did Tony get grounded?

Answer: Tony was grounded because he was caught by his mother's best friend when he was hugging Paul. Paul could not even talk with Tony for few days.

21. What is happening at the part where Paul and Kyle are together in the genitor's room?

Answer: Kyle was having a hard moment because his aunt just past away and had to go to her funeral so Paul stepped to him. He opened his arms and he folds himself inside. He hold Kyle as he shivers. Paul stroke his hair. Paul whisper caring words. The Kyle pulls his face back and Paul kissed him. Paul wanted Kyle to know that he is here for him.

22. What did Kyle choose the school dance theme to be?

Answer: Kyle chose the school dance theme to be death. His aunt's death affected him and how he perceives the world.

23. Why does Paul reject Kyle's kiss and his love confession?

Answer: Paul rejects Kyle's kiss because he still has feelings towards Noah. He believes that him and Kyle should just remain as friends.

24. What happens with Paul and Joni's relationship?

Answer: They make up and become good friends again. Paul states that they never fought like this before.

25. What is happening at the part where Kyle and Paul talk about their identities?

Answer: Kyle and Paul are talking about who they are and knowing themselves. Kyle is jealous that Paul knows who he is and is confident about it.

26. Why do Paul and Ted talk to discuss the issue about Joni?

Answer: This showed how serious the situation was. They put aside their differences for the first time to help Joni to realize that she is changing.

27. Why does Paul go over to Tony's house after talking with Kyle?

Answer: Paul goes over to Tony's house to tell all the things that has happened to him. He tells Tony about Noah. He tells Tony about Kyle and all the things that Kyle said. Paul shows Tony his confusion, his hurt, and his anger.

28. What does Tony say to his mom when she comes into his room to tell Paul to leave?

Answer: He says that they will leave the door open. They can even go into the kitchen if she wants them to. There are some girls at school whose parents have those rules when boys come over, even if they're just friends, so he thinks that would make sense for them too.

29. What do you think will happen to Tony and his parents?

Answer: Even though, Tony's parents really believe that being gay will bring him to fail of life, they still love him and want him to be happy. I think that at the end, Tony's parents will finally realize and just accept him as who he is.

30. What is happening at the part where Paul and Noah sits together to talk?

Answer: Noah finally realize that Paul really likes him and want to be with him. He is sorry for what he had done to Paul. He wants to have a relationship with Paul again.